A/67/19

United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

2013 substantive session (New York, 19 February-15 March, 27 March and 6 September 2013)

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-seventh Session
Supplement No. 19

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United Nations • New York, 2013

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[9 September 2013]

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. By its resolution 66/297, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/66/19), decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field, and requested the Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

Chapter II
Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations held its 2013 session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 February to 15 March 2013 and on 27 March and 6 September 2013 and held seven formal meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. At the 227th (opening) meeting, on 19 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support made statements.

4. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support provided support to the Committee on substantive issues, while the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the technical secretariat of the Committee.

B. Election of officers

5. At the same meeting, the Committee elected its officers by acclamation, as follows:

Chair:
Mrs. U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairs:
Mr. Mateo Estreme (Argentina)
Mr. Gilles Rivard (Canada)
Mr. Kazutoshi Aikawa (Japan)
Mr. Tomasz Kaszyński (Poland)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Mohamed Sarwat Selim (Egypt)

C. Agenda

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.121/2013/L.1), which read:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. General debate.
6. Consideration of the draft report by the Working Group of the Whole.
7. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.
8. Other matters.

7. The Committee also approved its draft programme of work (A/AC.121/2013/L.2).

D. Organization of work

8. Also at its 227th meeting, the Committee decided to establish a working group of the whole, to be chaired by Gilles Rivard (Canada), to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly.

9. The composition of the Committee at its 2013 session is contained in the annex to the present report. The list of documents for the session is contained in A/AC.121/2013/INF/2, and the list of participants at the session is contained in A/AC.121/2013/INF/4.

E. Proceedings of the Committee

10. At its 227th to 230th meetings, on 19 and 20 February, the Committee held a general debate on a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. Statements were made by the representatives of Egypt (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Cuba (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Thailand (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, then in a national capacity), Australia (on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand), the European Union (also on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine, which aligned themselves with the statement), Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe, as well as by the observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

11. On 21 February, briefings were presented to the Working Group of the Whole on the following topics: operational field issues; responding to the threats of serious and organized crime in post-conflict environments; peacebuilding partners; and civilian capacities.

12. The Working Group of the Whole and its five subworking groups met between 7 and 12 March.

Chapter III
Consideration of the draft report of the Working Group

13. At its 233rd meeting, on 6 September, the Special Committee acknowledged that there was no agreement on draft recommendations from the Working Group of the Whole. Expressing regret at the lack of agreement, the Committee decided that the Chair would convene an open-ended intersessional group of friends of the Chair to consider working methods, in particular paragraph (a) (iv) of its 2012 decision on working methods of the Committee and its Working Group of the Whole regarding the separation of non-operative paragraphs from recommendations made and briefings requested (A/66/19, annex), with the aim of recommending an agreed format before the commencement of the 2014 session of the Committee. The Committee further decided that, should there be no agreement by the beginning of the 2014 session on the implementation of paragraph (a) (iv), the Committee would revert to the format used for the reports of the 2012 and previous sessions.

Chapter IV

Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted its draft report to the General Assembly as introduced by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

Annex

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2013 session

Members: The Special Committee currently consists of the following 148 members: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Liberia, Myanmar, Panama, South Sudan, Holy See, African Union, European Union, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Criminal Police Organization, International Organization of la Francophonie, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

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